

MINUTES

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Bethlehem Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Evergreen Church,

Conecuh County, Ala.,

Commencing Sept. 23d, 1876.



MEMPHIS TENN.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY PRINT, 361 MAIN ST
1876

Southern Baptist Publication Society, Memphis, Tenn.

PARTIAL CATALOGUE OF BOOKS

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MINUTES.

EVERGREEN CHURCH, CONECUH CO., }
September 23, 1876. }

The BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met pursuant to adjournment with the Evergreen Baptist Church.

The Annual Sermon was preached by Elder T. M. Bailey, from Acts 9:31.

After a recess of an hour the delegates assembled in the church, and were called to order by the Moderator, Elder W. G. Curry; and after singing, and prayer by Elder B. H. Crumpton, the Moderator announced the Association ready for the transaction of business.

The Moderator appointed brethren Y. M. Rabb, L. W. Duke and A. J. Robinson, to read the letters. The letters were read and contents noted, (see tabular statement) and the names of delegates enrolled, to-wit:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Claiborne—R. A. Lambert, G. W. Carter.

Salem—D. M. McNull, Austin Hendrix, R. Sawyer.

Zion—L. W. Duke, Thomas Morton, J. L. Hurry.

Monroeville—T. S. Wiggins, J. W. Broughton, John DeLoach.

Philadelphia—W. G. Curry, W. A. Locke, T. A. Nettles.*

Pleasant Ridge—E. T. Address, William Murphy,* Travis Biggs.*

SECOND DISTRICT.

Bethany—A. G. Duke, S. Brantley, J. P. Watkins.

Bellville—E. Clive, James Straughn, J. C. Donald.

Arkadelphia—James Norred, Isaac Hines, A. H. Stokes.

Pilgrims' Rest—J. B. Colley, E. P. Lovless, J. E. Deer.

Olive Branch—J. T. Griffin, J. M. Yates.

Cedar Creek—J. M. Woods, M. C. Kirkland.

Pensacola—John Wilmer, W. S. Brown.

Ramah—B. Bradberry,* R. Tatum, M. K. Harper.

Point Pleasant—Simeon Lowry,* J. White.*

* Absentees' mark.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Evergreen—J. W. Locke, F. M. Walker, Y. M. Rabb.

Beulah—A. Jay, J. M. Travis, J. G. Baggett.

New Hope—Isaac Russell, W. R. Higdon,* S. W. Cook *

Georgiana—J. E. Bell, E. C. Milner, J. M. Sims, I. R. Eskew.

Old Town—I. Spence, W. R. Watson, Z. T. James.

Union—L. Garner, John Angle.*

Sepulga—Charles Hyde, Alfred Thomas,* S. H. Smith.*

Brooklyn—A. J. Robinson, C. A. Thames, E. A. Brantley.

Brushy Creek—J. M. Fortune, N. R. Hays.

New Prospect—J. H. Lee, Shedord Sims.

Mt. Carmel—J. Chancellor, J. W. Darby, Joseph Bennett.

Antioch—G. E. Mize, John Byran, S. J. Williams.

Bethel—J. A. Mercer.

Proceeded to the election of officers for perfecting organization; which resulted in the re-election Elder W. G. Curry, Moderator; John DeLoach, Clerk; and A. J. Robinson, Treasurer.

The Moderator appointed a Committee on Preaching, to-wit: Elder J. E. Bell, James Straughn, J. P. Watkins and the deacons of the Bellville Church.

On motion, brother E. A. Brantley was received as a delegate from the Brooklyn Church.

Letters and messengers from corresponding bodies were called for.

From the Elim Association—Received her messengers, Elder J. L. Bryers, M. V. Hare and package of minutes, and invited them to seats with us.

From Pine Barren Association—Received her messengers and invited them to seats with us, to-wit: J. A. Rabb, A. T. Sims, John Higdon.

From the Alabama Association—Elder B. H. Crumpton, and invited him to a seat with us.

From the State Convention—Elder T. M. Bailey, Financial Secretary and State evangelist, and invited him to a seat with us.

From the Zion Association—Received her messengers, Elder G. W. Kirce and James Jones, and invited them to seats with us.

Received brother C. H. Skelton, the agent of the "Alabama Baptist," and invited him to a seat with us.

The Committee on Preaching made their report as follows:

To-night, preaching by Eldef A. T. Sims; on Sabbath at

*Absentees' mark.

half-past 9 o'clock, Elder T. M. Bailey will address the Sabbath School; and at 11 o'clock preaching in the Union Church by Elder B. H. Crumpton, and at the same hour preaching in the Academy by Elder John Wilmer, and at the same hour, Elder J. M. Fortune preached to the colored people, and at 2 o'clock in the Union Church preaching by Elder W. G. Curry, and to-night preaching by Elder B. F. Riley.

On motion of Bro. E. P. Lovless, a committee was raised to report on Education at this session of the Association.

On motion of Elder J. E. Bell, a committee was raised to report on Foreign Missions at this session of the Association.

The Moderator announced the appointment of standing committees as follows:

On State of Religion—Elder J. E. Bell, J. B. Colley, J. M. Travis, E. C. Milner and A. G. Duke.

On Periodicals and Publications—Elder A. Jay, J. P. Watkins, E. C. Milner, John Wilmer, T. S. Wiggins.

On Queries and Requests—Elder I. Spence, Y. M. Rabb, E. P. Lovless, J. W. Broughton.

On Correspondence—J. W. Locke, E. Cline, James Straughn, J. M. Woods.

On Finance—W. A. Locke, T. S. Wiggins, E. C. Milner.

On Foreign Missions—Elder J. E. Bell, J. P. Watkins, W. A. Locke, T. Morton, R. A. Lambert.

On Education—E. P. Lovless, A. Jay, W. S. Brown, J. M. Fortune, J. E. Deer.

Brother Y. M. Rabb, chairman of the committee appointed at the last session of this body to revise the Constitution, Rules of Order, and Order of Business, made his report; and on motion, the further consideration thereof was post-poned until Monday morning 10 o'clock, and made the special order for that hour.

On motion, the Association adjourned to half-past 8 o'clock Monday morning. Prayer by Elder John Wilmer.

On Sabbath the ministers preached in the order of their appointment to large and attentive audiences; and after the morning services, a collection was taken up for Associational purposes.

MONDAY MORNING, SEPT. 25, 1876.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. M. Fortune.

On motion of Bro. J. W. Locke, that the delegates not answering to their names be noted as absentees.

Bro. J. W. Locke, Chairman Committee on Correspondence,

made his report; which, on motion, was received, amended and adopted. (See appendix A.)

Elder L. W. Duke, Chairman Committee on Sabbath Schools, made his report; and during the pendency of the report, the hour set by previous order having arrived, on motion, the regular order of business was suspended to further consider the Sabbath School report, and after considerable discussion the report was amended and adopted. (See appendix B.)

The hour set by previous order having arrived to consider the report on the revision of the Constitution, after considerable discussion the report was laid on the table.

Bro. J. B. Colley, Chairman of the Committee on Domestic Missions, made his report; which, on motion, was amended and adopted. (See appendix C.)

Elder A. Jay, Chairman of the Committee on Periodicals and Publications, made his report; which, on motion, was received, amended and adopted. (See appendix D.)

Elder J. E. Bell, Chairman of the Committee on State of Religion, made his report; which was received and adopted. (See appendix E.)

The Association adjourned to 2 o'clock p. m.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Elder J. E. Bell, Chairman Committee on Foreign Missions, made his report; and on motion was adopted. (See appendix F.)

Elder I. Spence, Chairman of the Committee on Queries and Requests, made his report; which, on motion, was received and adopted. (See appendix G.)

Bro. E. P. Lovless, Chairman of Committee on Education, made his report, which was received and adopted. (See appendix H.)

On motion of Elder J. E. Bell, that an opportunity be given to raise funds and pledges to educate Elder J. M. Fortune, received money and pledges amounting to \$——.

Bro. Y. M. Rabb, Chairman of the Committee on Temperance, made his report. Elder A. Jay offered an amendment; and after some discussion the amendment and report were laid on the table.

Appointment of standing committees to report at the next session of this body:

On Missions—T. S. Wiggins, E. Cline, A. G. Duke, J. B. Colley, J. W. Broughton.

On Foreign Missions—Elder John Wilmer, E. C. Milner, C. A. Thames, Thomas Morton, I. Spence.

On Sabbath Schools—A. J. Robinson, J. P. Watkins, L. W. Duke, F. M. Walker, W. A. Locke.

On motion, adjourned to half-past 7 o'clock. Prayer by Elder J. Wilmer.

The Association met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. L. Bryers.

On motion of Bro. R. A. Lambert that a committee be appointed to select ministers to preach the annual and missionary sermons at the next session of the Association, committee apponited to-wit: R. A. Lambert, F. M. Walker, Y. M. Rabb, A. J. Robinson.

On motion, that the money on hand, and pledges for the State Board as early as collected, be paid over to the Treasurer of the Association, and by him to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the State Board.

The Committee on Finance made their report; which, on motion, was received and adopted. (See appendix I.)

On motion of Bro. Y. M. Rabb, that the endowment fund sent up to the Association be turned over to the agent of the Association.

On motion of Bro. Y. M. Rabb, that an advertisement of the "Alabama Baptist" may be put on the minute or back of the same.

Bro. R. A. Lambert, chairman of the committee to select ministers to preach the annual and missionary sermons at the next session of the Association, reported as follows: Elder J. E. Bell to preach the annual sermon, and Elder L. W. Duke to preach a sermon on missions.

Elder J. E. Bell offered the following:

Resolved, That we learn with pleasure that Bro. W. S. Brown is traveling and exhibiting scenes as entertainments, for the benefit of the First Baptist Church in Pensacola.

Bro. Y. M. Rabb moved to take from the table "The report the revision of the Constitution." The motion was tabled.

Elder A. Jay moved to take from the table "The report on Temperance;" and the motion was laid on the table.

Elder A. Jay offered the following resolution, which was adopted, to-wit:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Association that true, vital Christianity is the only sure correction of this great evil of intemperance, and recommend that the churches cultivate more the spirit of Christ by enforcing his principles that this great sin may not be found within the pale of the Church.

Resolved, That the item, "Standing Committee on Temperance," be dropped from the order of business.

Elder A. Jay moved to re-consider the vote, tabling the report of the revision of the Constitution, and to take the same from the table was carried, and on motion the report was

re-committed back to the committee to report at the next session of the Association with three additional members added to the committee, to-wit: Elder A. Jay, T. S. Wiggins, F. M. Walker.

Bro. R. A. Lambert offered the following resolution, to-wit:

Resolved, That the Association tender to the citizens of Evergreen and vicinity its sincere thanks for their kindness, and the hospitable manner in which they have entertained the delegates and visitors to this body; and we leave for our homes deeply impressed with the kindest regards, not only for the members of the church, but for all those who have shown such an interest for our comfort and enjoyment.

Appointed correspondents as follows:

To Pine Barren Association—Elder J. E. Bell W. G. Curry, L. W. Duke, J. W. Locke.

Elim Association—Y. M. Rabb, E. P. Lovless, John Wilmer, W. G. Curry, J. W. Locke, J. E. Bell, J. B. Colley.

Zion Association—J. M. Fortune, A. J. Robinson.

Alabama Association—Elder A. Jay and J. E. Bell.

State Convention—A. Jay, J. E. Bell, W. G. Curry, R. A. Lambert, John Wilmer, L. W. Duke, A. J. Robinson, J. M. Fortune.

On motion of Bro. J. W. Locke, that the minute fund be turned over to the Clerk, and after his services are paid the balance be expended for printing and distributing the minutes.

On motion of Bro. Y. M. Rabb, that the thanks of this body be tendered to the Methodists for so generously tendering us the use of their house of worship.

On motion of Bro. Y. M. Rabb, that the Clerk obtain a complete file of the minutes of this Association for the purpose of having them bound.

Bro. A. J. Robinson, Treasurer, made his report, which was received and adopted. (See appendix K.)

On motion, the Association, after a harmonious session, adjourned to meet with the Monroeville Baptist Church, Monroe County, Alabama, on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1877.

JOHN DELOACH,
Clerk.

W. G. CURRY,
Moderator.

APPENDICES.

(A.)

The Bethlehem Association to corresponding associations sendeth Christian salutation:

We hail with unusual delight our Sixtieth Annual Session. It is our good pleasure to report prosperity in our bounds, the glad news of revivals and accessions by experience and baptism in many of the churches composing this body, which causes our hearts to go out in humble praise and thanks to Almighty God through Jesus for the great work done for us. Our hearts' desire and prayer to God is, that Zion may prosper in your bounds, and that this friendly and social correspondence may be continued.

It has been our good pleasure to receive corresponding messengers from Elim Association, to-wit: Elder J. L. Bryers and M. V. Hare. From the Zion Association: Elder G. W. Kirce and J. F. Jones. From the Alabama Association: Elder B. H. Crumpton; and from Pine Barren Association: Elder A. T. Sims, John Higdon, J. A. Rabb, from some of whom we have had valiant service in the cause of our Master. We can but exclaim, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. W. LOCKE, Ch'm.

(B.)—ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

That it is a duty incumbent upon every Christian as well as every parent to bring up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, no unbiassed, well-informed, careful Bible reader will deny. Even in the remote age of types and shadows God required of parents, and also all the teachers of Israel, to give special attention to the religious instructions of children; and surely the duty cannot be less incumbent in this enlightened age, when the form has given way to the power, and the shadow to the substance of vital religion. We believe that the indifference manifested on the part of so many of our brethren arises from ignorance of the truth that the Sabbath Schools have the Divine sanction. If they could be convinced of this truth, (which they could be and would be by carefully examining God's word on the subject) we believe that we would then have the hearty co-operation of every sincere lover of Jesus in carrying the grand enterprise to perfection. There are many arguments in favor of the Sabbath School. The management of our beloved Zion, so far as human agency is concerned, will soon pass into the hands of the rising generation; it will soon devolve upon them to raise the standard of piety and morality, and if their minds are stored now with the doctrines and principles of Christianity they will be much better prepared to enter these high stations, and occupy them with honor to themselves, good to the country, and glory to God. We heartily approve of the Bible plan as suggested by Bro. Bailey, our State evangelist, in organizing the whole church membership into Bible classes, and we earnestly request the churches composing this Association to adopt the plan.

Respectfully submitted,

L. W. DUKE, Ch'm.

(C.)—ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your Committee beg leave to report, that while there are ample fields in the bounds of this Association to occupy the entire time of a mission-

ary, we regret to say that we do not conceive of any visible plan by which we could raise the means that will be requisite to sustain the missionary. We therefore recommend that any unappropriated funds that are on hand be forwarded to the State Mission Board for the purpose to aid in supporting the State evangelists that are now in the field. We further recommend that the report hereafter to be made on missions that the word "domestic" be left out, and that some one of our able ministers be appointed to preach a missionary sermon on Sunday of our next annual meeting. Resolved, that it is the desire of this Association that the work of the State Mission Board shall go on increasing, and the churches be called upon to make pledges for its support.

J. B. COLLEY, Ch'm.

(D.)—ON PERIODICALS AND PUBLICATIONS.

Your Committee beg leave to report, that of the various publications demanding the considerations and support of the Baptists of the State, the claims of the "Alabama Baptist" stands pre-eminently above that of all other periodicals; and for its efficiency as a medium of communication among Baptists, for its sound Bible teachings and religious instructions, it is earnestly desired that it should be in every Baptist home at least. For the use of Sabbath Schools, "Kind Words" should be adopted; and we urge the brethren everywhere to give their united support to those two papers; and that a copy of this report be sent to the editor of the "Alabama Baptist."

Respectfully submitted,

A JAY, Ch'm.

(E.)—ON STATE OF RELIGION.

Your Committee beg leave to report, that from the reading of the letters from the various churches composing this Association it appears that a state of coldness prevails in some churches and communities. We rejoice, however, to report that some churches have enjoyed precious revivals since our last meeting, and one hundred and twenty-six have been added to the various churches by experience and baptism.

J. E. BELL, Ch'm.

(F.)—ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your Committee beg leave to report: The subject of Missions is one which ought to be dear to the heart of every Baptist. Our precious Saviour came to this world on a mission of love to save the lost. When he had accomplished this great work, he gathered his disciples together on Olivet and said, "Ye shall be my witnesses"; "Go teach all nations"; "Go ye into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." A few faithful, here and there have been trying to follow the command; but have the churches in their strength been trying? Let the reports of this session speak; let the records of the past testify, and is the evidence satisfactory? No! No!! It is to be feared that the churches of our Union have not realized their obligations on this subject. We therefore recommend that the claims of those without the Gospel, both in our own and other lands, be brought before the churches of this Association by their pastors, during this and the next sitting of this body, and further recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That an annual sermon be preached upon the subject of Missions at each sitting of this body, on Sabbath, at 11 o'clock A. M.

J. E. BELL, Ch'm.

(G.)—ON QUERIES AND REQUESTS.

Your Committee to whom was referred the subject of Queries and Requests beg leave to report that, in reading the letters of this body, we find a request from Georgiana, Bethany, and Monroeville churches for this

body to hold their next meeting with their respective churches, the Monroeville church being in the district by rotation entitled. We recommend our next meeting be held with that church.

Respectfully submitted,

I. SPENCE, Ch'm.

(H.)—ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee beg leave to report, that the education of the young is of paramount importance; that there is a pressing necessity for the establishment of a high school somewhere in easy access of our Association. We would suggest the propriety of co-operation with the Alabama Association and establish a school at Greenville, or some other suitable place; the school to have sufficient grade to enable students who have passed through the school to enter college proper at the Howard, the State University, or any other college they might wish to enter.

Resolved, That in our humble judgment the Howard College is all that could be desired for the education of our youth, and that we would recommend it to all those desiring to give their sons a collegiate education.

Resolved, That the effort being made to endow Howard College has our heartfelt sympathy, and we cordially recommend this enterprise to the consideration of the churches in our union.

Respectfully submitted,

E. P. LOVLESS, Ch'm.

(I.)—FINANCE REPORT.

Your Committee beg leave to report the following amounts for the objects designated :

MINUTE FUND.

Claiborne.....	\$2 00	Evergreen.....	\$2 50
Salem.....	2 15	New Hope.....	1 00
Zion.....	3 00	New Prospect.....	1 10
Monroeville.....	4 00	Brushy Creek.....	1 00
Pleasant Ridge.....	50	Brooklyn.....	1 75
Philadelphia.....	3 00	Pensacola.....	1 00
Mars Hill.....	1 00	Georgiana.....	2 00
Bethany.....	75	Sepulchra.....	50
Arkadelphia.....	2 00	Old Town.....	1 00
Pilgrims' Rest.....	2 50	Mt. Carmel.....	1 50
Olive Branch.....	1 35	Antioch.....	2 45
Cedar Creek.....	1 00	Beulah.....	1 00
Point Pleasant.....	2 25	Bethel.....	50
Ramah.....	1 05	Bellville.....	4 50

Total Minute Fund.....\$48 30

For State Board, Monroeville.....	\$10 00
“ “ Bethany.....	11 50
“ “ Evergreen.....	2 05
“ “ Georgiana.....	75
“ “ Mars Hill.....	1 00
“ “ Bellville.....	3 35
“ “ Sabbath Collection.....	9 75
“ “ Foreign Missions.....	80
“ “ Endowment Fund.....	14 00

Total.....\$101 50

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. LOCKE, Ch'm.

(K.)—TREASURER'S REPORT.

A. J. Robinson, in account with the Bethlehem Association :

Dr.

To balance on hand last year.....	\$33 95
To amount received from Finance Committee for minutes.....	48 30
State Board.....	28 65
Endowment Fund.....	14 00
Foreign Missions.....	80
Sabbath Collection.....	9 75

Cr.

By amount paid State Mission Board.....	\$73 15
By amount paid Clerk.....	48 30
By amount paid Bro. Curry.....	14 00

\$135 45

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. ROBINSON, Treasurer

PLEDGES BY CHURCHES AND INDIVIDUALS FOR THE STATE BOARD FOR THE STATE EVANGELISTS.

Pilgrims' Rest Church.....	\$12 00
Beulah ".....	5 00
Bethel ".....	5 00
Salem ".....	5 00
Philadelphia ".....	15 00
Evergreen ".....	20 00
Monroeville ".....	15 00
Claiborne ".....	5 00
New Prospect ".....	2 50
Brooklyn ".....	1 00
Union ".....	5 00
Antioch ".....	5 00
A. Jay.....	5 00
James Straughn.....	5 00
M. Farnham.....	2 00
J. C. Robinson.....	1 00
E. C. Straughn.....	2 00
L. K. Kendall.....	1 00
E. S. Riley.....	1 00
L. J. Andrews.....	1 00
M. E. Burket.....	1 00
L. Finch.....	1 00
Cash collections.....	4 40

\$119 90

TABULAR STATEMENT.

CHURCHES.	POST OFFICE.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	Sabbath meetings
				Total.....
				No. of Blacks.....
				No. of Whites.....
				Dead.....
				Dismissed.....
				Excluded.....
				Restored.....
				Rec'd. by letter...
				Rec'd by Baptism
FIRST DISTRICT.				
Montgomery Hill.....	Mt Pleasant.....	L. W. Duke.....	R. A. Lambert.....	2 1 3 40 16 56 2d
Little River.....	Claiborne.....	E. Cline.....	J. H. Newberry.....	1 1 4 8 1 73 9 82
Salerno.....	Monroeville.....	J. McWilliams.....	W. D. McWilliams.....	8 1 6 1 22 20 142 1st
Zion.....	Monroeville.....	W. G. Curry.....	J. DeLoach.....	3 1 83 84 3d
Monroeville.....	Monroeville.....	L. W. Duke.....	J. D. Nettles.....	2 4 4 140 140 3d
Philadelphia.....	Monroevillg.....	J. D. Beck.....	J. E. Boon.....	3 1 1 50 1 51
Pleasant Hill.....	Williams Station.....	E. Cline.....	H. C Harper.....	5 32 2d
Mars Hill.....	Monroeville.....	W. G. Curry.....	J. P. Watkins.....	1 8 1 1 8 1 54 54 2d
Pleasant Ridge.....	Burnt Corn.....	W. G. Curry.....	James Fraughton.....	4 2 1 1 102 02 4th
Bethany.....	Bellville.....	I. Spence.....	James Nored.....	1 6 3 2 65 3d
Bellville.....	Bellville.....	J. E. Bell.....	J. B. Colley.....	1 1 1 66 66 1st
Arkadelphia.....	Pellard.....	John Wilmer.....	W. L. Brown.....	1 2 2 21
Catawba Springs.....	Brewton.....	Pensacola.....	J. M. Yates.....	2 46 46 2d
Pilgrims Rest.....	Pensacola.....	Evergreen.....	G. W. Kirkland.....	1 34 34 3d
Breckenridge.....	Gravilla.....	I. Spence.....	J. L. Eddins.....	1 2 6 78
Olive Branch.....	Castle Berry.....	J. M. Wood.....	T. B. Long.....	3 1 43 43 2d
Cedar Creek.....	Brewton.....	Jacob Smith.....	J. R. C. oke.....	6 3 48 1 49 1st
Point Pleasant.....	Burnt Corn.....	J. L. Eddins.....	G. R. Stamps.....	5 2 12 1 88 4th
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